

There is an important issue brewing with Sinclair Broadcasting. They're using their particular position to manipulate the public and attempting to swing an election to their own favor. This is a clearly partisan attempt to control an election.

This, for me, is not about one choice over the other. It is about corruption and our freedoms. Clearly, everyone is entitled to freedom of speech, but in this case, we have a corporate entity abusing its powers to unilaterally support one side, thus denying that freedom to the various media outlets under their control.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.